AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph no. 4 with the following amended paragraph:

There are information-related devices such as personal computers, facsimiles, and so on, A/V devices such as TVs, set-top boxes, DVDs, and so on, control-based devices such as coffee makers, rice cookers, refrigerators, and so on, dummy devices such as remote controllers, interphones, and so on, and the like, that are home appliances connected to a home network. Such home appliances can connect to sub-networks such as telephone lines, wireless LANs, ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH networks, Universal Serial Buses (USBs), IEEE 1394, electric power lines, and so on.

Please replace the paragraph no. 6 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 1, an independent network is constructed with a telephone set 120a, a notebook computer 120b, a facsimile 120c, and a computer 120d connected to telephone lines 120. A notebook computer 130a and a PDA 130b are connected to a wireless LAN or a ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH network 130. An USB network 140 includes a computer 140a, a printer 140b, and a scanner 140c. An IEEE 1394 network 150 includes AV devices such as a TV 150a, a camcorder 150b, an audio set 150c, and the like. To electric power lines 160 are connected control-based appliances such as a coffee maker 160a, a rice cooker 160b, a refrigerator 160c, and a washing machine 160d. These sub-networks 120, 130, 140, 150, and 160 are interconnected by a node 170 as a bridge port. A master server 110 serves as a path interconnecting external networks and devices existing in these sub-networks.

Please replace the paragraph no. 7 with the following amended paragraph:

However, the conventional home network 100 is mixed with existing networks such as telephone lines, electric power lines, and so on, and newly established networks such as a ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH network, a wireless LAN, and so on, and devices in the networks operate on different hardware and software platforms, so that it is not easy to construct a home network in a single system. Accordingly, a method has been proposed in that a common virtual computing environment called "middleware" is configured, as a home network implementation approach, for devices scattered at home, and applications are provided over the environment.

Please replace the paragraph no. 42 with the following amended paragraph:

The home network 400 includes the master server 300, a Wide Area Network (WAN) module 264, an IEEE 1394 module 266, a ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH module 268, a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) module 270, a Home Phoneline Networking Alliance (HomePNA) module 272, and an Ethernet module 274. The individual modules 264 to 274 are connected to the master server 300 through a bus. The WAN module 264, IEEE 1394 module 266, ~~Bluetooth~~ BLUETOOTH module 268, WLAN module 270, HomePNA module 272, and Ethernet module 274 provide ways to receive and send data from and to corresponding devices carrying out communications based on protocols thereof.

Please replace the paragraph no. 73 with the following amended paragraph:

If a normal response is not received, the message processor 310 requests the poller 340 to delete the polling information on the corresponding device (S520), and, accordingly, the poller 340 deletes the polling information on the corresponding device from the polling list 350 (S525).

Together with this, the message processor 310 requests the database processor 360 to delete

device information on the corresponding device (S530). The database processor 360,

accordingly, deletes the device information on the corresponding device from the database 370

(S535).